

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AERIAL SPRAYING EQUIPMENT,
AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING TRAINING AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT

REF: (A) STATE 292639; (B) STATE 291561; (C) STATE 276273

(D) TELCON: BERNAL/WAMPLER; (E) TELECON ALBERTI/
DUGSTAD; (F) ALBERTI/AMB VANCE TELCON, DEC. 17.

SUMMARY: US EMBASSY STEERING COMMITTEE MET WITH DR.
GERTZ AND HIS SENIOR STAFF TO DISCUSS PROBLEM AREAS WITH
EMPHASIS ON IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO ACCELERATE THE HERBI-
CIDAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS. DR. GERTZ REQUESTED EXPEDITING
OF SPRAY EQUIPMENT UNDER PROCUREMENT, ADDITIONAL SPRAY EQUIPMENT
AVAILABLE IN U.S. UNDER LEASE ARRANGEMENT, TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IN TACTICAL LOGISTICS SUPPORT FOR SPRAYING
OPERATIONS AND ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ASSIST-
ANCE TO ASSURE MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY FOR NEXT FOUR MONTHS.
THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED ON RECRUITING OF ADDITIONAL ROTARY
WING SPRAY PILOTS WAS ACCEPTED AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED
WITH WASHINGTON IN REF TELCON. END OF SUMMARY.

1. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MAJOR CHEMICAL PAYLOAD FOR
DENSE CONCENTRATIONS OF FIELDS AND TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM
USE IN SPRAYING OPERATIONS WITH EXISTENT AIRCRAFT IN
COUNTRY, MISSION SUGGESTS WASHINGTON MIGHT CONSIDER
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ACQUISITION OF PERHAPS FIVE MICRO-FOIL SYSTEMS CITED

IN REF. (C). MISSION AWARE THAT OBLIGATION OF FUNDS CONTINGENT UPON SIGNING OF AGREEMENT; THEREFORE, REVISED FUNDING FIGURES AND LANGUAGE TRANSMITTED UNDER SEPTEL. WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION SOONEST ON DELIVERY LEADTIMES, INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS, POSSIBLE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO MODEL 212 INSTALLATION AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED ESSENTIAL. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING FACTORY TECHREP TO BRIEF THE AG SENIOR STAFF ON MICRO-FOIL SYSTEM AND TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH NAU-AG AVIATION EXPERTS AND BHC TECHNICIANS.

2. MISSION CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDATION PROPOSED IN REF (D) RELATED TO INCLUDING SERVICES UNDER THE PROCUREMENT CONTRACT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE INSTALLATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND GROUND LOGISTICS SUPPORT. WHILE WE FEEL THAT FIRST THREE AREAS ARE NOT OF MAJOR CONSEQUENCE, WE EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR TWO HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF GROUND LOGISTICS SUPPORT FOR EXTENSIVE AERIAL SPRAYING OPERATIONS WITH SPANISH LANGUAGE ACAPABILITY IF POSSIBLE.

3. THE ARRIVAL OF EIGHT NEW SIMPLEX SYSTEMS SHOULD AUGMENT BELL 206-B SPRAY FLEET TO TOTAL OF NINE FIXED UNITS PLUS THE SUSPENDED WET-BUCKET SYSTEM. OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BHC FACILITY SUPERVISOR REVEAL THAT WITH ONE 206-B HARD DOWN AND ANOTHER WITH LONG TERM REPAIRS, WE WOULD BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC IN TERMS OF MAINTAINING BETTER THAN SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT AVAILABILITY FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS. BHC SUPERVISOR JUDGES AND MISSION CONCURS, THAT ADDITIONAL MODEL 206-B BHC MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS UNDER THE CALL PERSONNEL ON A ONE-ON-A-ONE BASIS WOULD INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY RATE SIGNIFICANTLY, BARRING ANY EXCESSIVE UNSCHEDULED MAINTENANCE AND/OR TOTAL CRASHES. THE MOST EXPEDIENT RESPONSE IS THROUGH THE BHC CONTRACT FOR THE NINE 206-B MAIN/TECHS. HOWEVER, INC MAY HAVE OTHER OPTIONS IN CONTRACTUAL SERVICES WITH PRIVATE SECTOR WITH EMPHASIS ON SPANISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. WHILE NINE TECHS WOULD BE OPTIMUM, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INCREMENT.

4. EVENTUALLY, THE NUMBER OF ROTARY WING AERIAL SPRAYING AIRCRAFT IS EXPECTED TO ATTAIN A TOTAL OF TEN 206-B'S AND FIVE MODEL 212'S FOR COMBINED TOTAL OF FIFTEEN. OBVIOUSLY THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS WILL INCREASE ACCORDINGLY; THEREFORE MISSION STRONGLY

REQUESTS S/NM CONSIDER AN ADDITIONAL THREE 206-B'S WHICH WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE TWO BASES IN THE ERADICATION ZONES AND ONE IN MEXICO CITY FOR SUPPORT AND AS FLOATS. SENIOR AG STAFF NOTED THAT ONCE MICRO -FOIL SYSTEMS ARE INSTALLED IN MODEL 212'S, THE NUMBER REMAINING FOR TROOP LIFT WILL DIMINISH TO TWELVE FURTHER REDUCED BY AVAILABILITY RATE TO NINE. OUR CANDID RESPONSE NOTED THAT AS SPRAYING OPERATIONS PROGRESS AND PILOTS AND GROUND SUPPORT ELEMENTS DEVELOP PROFICIENCY, TROOP-LIFT, REQUIREMENT SHOULD DECREASE. PRESENTLY, THERE ARE ONLY VAGUE ESTIMATES ON PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FIELDS WHICH CAN BE SPRAYED WITH ACCURATE STATISTICS YET TO BE DEVELOPED.

5. IN RESPONSE TO DR. GERTZ'S REQUEST FOR EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF LEASING SPRAY/RIGGED ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT COMPATIBLE WITH EQUIPMENT AND AIRCRAFT IN COUNTRY AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, MISSION REQUESTS DEPARTMENT PURSUE THIS FURTHER. FOR OPENERS, WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT OMNI-FLIGHT, JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN, OWNED BY DICK WERLING, TELEPHONE 608-756-3631 (SIX-ZERO-EIGHT-SEVEN-FIVE-SIX-THREE-SIX-THREE-ONE) OPERATES A FLEET OF MODEL 206-B'S WITH FIXED SYSTEMS FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK. ADDITIONALLY, THE NORTHEAST HELICOPTER SERVICE IN BUCKSPORT, MAINE, OWNED BY AL AVERAL, TELEPHONE 207-825-3375 (TWO-ZERO-SEVEN-EIGHT-TWO-FIVE-THREE-THREE-SEVEN-FIVE) HAS ONE MODEL 206-B WITH FIXED SYSTEM. SINCE AGRICULTURAL WORK IS SEASONAL AND WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THOSE SECTORS PRECLUDE AG SPRAYING, REASONABLE LEASING ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT ONLY MAY BE FEASIBLE. ADVISE.

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